

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 6, 2020

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Noreen Blaiklock, Jesse McMahan, Paul Schlein, Karen Dowell, Karen Robbins, Stanley Lane (Planning Board), Matt Caras (Planning Board), Bob Ater (Abutter)

1. Public notice for this unscheduled interim meeting was posted. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:02PM
2. The minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting regarding the Sewall Pond Conservation Area were reviewed.
3. The Select Board has asked the Conservation Commission about the state of the Sewall Pond Conservation Area Recreational Use Management Plan (SPCARUMP).
4. Phine will be meeting with the Board at their next meeting Monday August 10, 2020 to discuss salt water access opportunities and invites others to attend. She will be staying for the Select Board discussion about the Sewall Pond Conservation Area. She would like to have a good understanding of the Commission's position and progress in order to present a clear unified message to the Board if asked about the SPCARUMP at that meeting. There was some understanding that the Select Board has enhanced powers in regards to COVID-19. It has been determined that is not true regarding the Conservation Area. Several people find the current signage confusing and ineffective. It is thought that a sign fronting on the road and centered on the gate stating "Area closed due to COVID" would be more effective than a "No parking" sign.
5. The Commission is concerned with and trying to address the preservation of the area and the long-term challenges of over use and isn't responsible for COVID health/safety management actions.
6. The Commission's objective is to determine the area's carrying capacity and consequently the allowable parking spots. Various ways to do this were discussed as well as education and enforcement.
7. The Commission will continue to discuss and develop the plan and concurrently develop an educational outreach program such as a series of articles, talks, or a brochure to explain the importance of all residents and users stewarding the Conservation Area and Sewall Pond as whole.
8. The Commission is willing to temporarily mark 5 parallel parking spots if that would help the Select Board with the partial re- opening due to COVID. Five spots were chosen with the notion that several bikes or future bike rack would represent the 6th vehicle parking spot. It is anticipated that the final plan will be encouraging bike access to the gate and prohibiting them on the trail.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 5:49PM
10. The next regularly scheduled meeting is August 18, 2020 at 5PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary